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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we sing of Your steadfast love and proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. Our souls long for You, for we find strength and joy in Your presence.

Bless our Senators. Lord, teach them to trust You even during life's storms. May they find strength and joy in the wisdom of Your promises. Help them to remember that You have said that nothing can separate them from Your love. Lord, empower them to seek in every undertaking to know and do Your will.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know a lot of negotiations have been going on in the bill that is soon to be before us, and I appreciate the Senators from both parties who have done that, but sometimes we forget that there are hundreds of other people who work on it.

I know the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee have been working extremely hard. I think of people—Chuck Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, and others in our committee—who have given up weekends, evenings. They were working and briefing me until last evening on the work they were doing because we can say what we want to do, but then you have got to write it down.

The same thing happened with the bill that, fortunately, passed unanimously here to reimburse our National Guard, to pay the backpay and other necessities of the Capitol Police, to try to repair the damage and improve the situation after what happened—the terrible things that happened on January 6—to go for higher protections of COVID for everybody who works here in the Capitol: the staff, professionals,

everybody. This is from those who clean the Capitol to those who guard the Capitol; they all need this kind of protection.

And with the help of JEANNE SHAHEEN and others, we were able to put in additional money and changes in the law to help us bring translators back from Afghanistan, people who had worked and put their lives on the line for our military, and bring them to safety.

As soon as, first, President Trump and then President Biden said we are leaving, their lives and the lives of their families were greatly endangered by the Taliban, and now they are back.

But I mention that because sometimes I might say, only half in jest, that Senators are merely constitutional impediments to their staffs, but we are very fortunate to have some of the brightest women and men anywhere in the staffs of the Senators in both parties, and certainly in those who administer the Senate, including those who are presently sitting and preparing to help us on everything from points of order to making sure the right papers are done and that the votes are counted properly.

I see all of these people working hard here today when I came into the Capitol, everybody from those who have to follow and make a copy of what I say on the floor, on through. I didn't hear anybody say: Boy, I wish I wasn't here.

I am sure just about everybody had other plans for Saturday and Sunday instead of being here. I think we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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